GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1859
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Management of Inter-State River Basins
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Koli Shri Bahadur Singh;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on Jal Manthan was held recently and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government is committed to come out with a comprehensive legislation to take care of the management of inter-State river basins of the country in case the States agree over it; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) Yes, Madam. This Ministry organized Jal Manthan-2 on 22-23 February, 2016 at New Delhi with the theme 'Integrated Approach for Sustainable Water Management'. The event was attended by several Ministers and senior officers of the Central and State Governments, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations, eminent experts in the water sector etc. During the event, different issues / problems relating to water conservation and management and measures to resolve them were inter-alia discussed.

(b) & (c) This Ministry had constituted a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice T.S. Doabia (Retd.) to study the activities that are required for optimum development of river basin and changes required in the existing River Board Act, 1956 for achievement of the same. The Committee submitted its Report containing the draft River Basin Management Bill in November, 2012. The draft River Basin Management Bill prepared by the Committee has been circulated among all States, Union Territories and related Union Ministries by this Ministry. The salient features of the draft River Basin Management Bill are annexed.

Further, this Ministry has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah on 28.12.2015 to examine the provisions of the draft River Basin Management Bill and suggest changes/modifications therein taking into account inter-alia the emerging challenges in the water sector, reuse of waste water after treatment, the likely impact of climate change on water resources, importance of river restoration/rejuvenation, water contamination issue etc.

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Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1859 to be answered on 05.05.2016 regarding "Management of Inter-State River Basins"

SALIENT FEATURES OF DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT BILL

(1) The Draft River Basin Management Bill proposes establishment of separate River Basin Authorities for regulation and development of waters for twelve major inter-State river basins in the country.

(2) It proposes principles of participation, cooperation, equitable and sustainable management, conjunctive use, integrated management, public trust doctrine and demand management for governing river basin development, management and regulation.

(3) It proposes a two-tier structure for a River Basin Authority, consisting of a Governing Council comprising, inter-alia, of Chief Ministers of riparian States and an Executive Board comprising, inter-alia, of Secretaries of riparian States, charged with the technical and implementation powers for the Governing Council decisions.

(4) It proposes each River Basin Authority should prepare a River Basin Master Plan for the inter-State river basin under its jurisdiction on the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management.

(5) It proposes that the Governing Council follow persuasion, conciliation and mediation as means to resolve disputes, whenever any dispute or difference arises between two or more State Governments with respect to any recommendation given by the River Basin Authority or the refusal or neglect of any State Government to undertake any measures in pursuance of the River Basin Master Plan or Schemes.

(6) It provides for referral of dispute(s) for resolution under the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, when the Governing Council fails to determine the issue(s) or resolve the water dispute(s) or where the State Governments disagree with the decision tendered by such Governing Council.

(7) It proposes that the River Basin Authority be empowered to have its own funds and requires them to prepare Annual Report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

(8) It proposes that the Central Government may give directions and make Rules for effective implementation of the provisions of the Bill. It also proposes that every River Basin Authority be empowered to make regulations for discharging its powers and functions etc.

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